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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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November 3, 1975
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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Soviet Military Parade May Be Less Military

This year's military parade through Red Square on November 7 may not include the tracked vehicles and large missiles normally seen in the past. US attaches who have observed two rehearsals saw only half the amount of equipment of previous years and none of the large pieces. Such rehearsals usually correspond closely to the parade itself, although the Soviets have on occasion displayed equipment on November 7 not seen in rehearsal.

If the large equipment is deleted from this year's anniversary event, it could mean that the Kremlin has decided to play down the martial trappings of the celebration and thereby bring it more closely into harmony with Moscow's "peace program." Since Helsinki, Soviet propaganda has made much of the need to complement political detente with a relaxation of military tension.

Last year, the concluding civilian portion of the parade was abruptly canceled, ostensibly because of inclement weather, but probably to protect the health of the aging Soviet leaders on the reviewing stand. The resulting predominance of military themes provoked a flurry of unwelcome Western press speculation and may have prompted a closer look at the format for this year's activities.

More mundane considerations may also have figured in the decision to forgo a display of heavy equipment this year. The Soviets may be trying to protect recently resurfaced roads along the parade route. (CONFIDENTIAL)



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Stirrings in Albania

Albanian party leader Hoxha is evidently keeping up his attack on the nation's intellectuals and bureaucrats.

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[REDACTED] Mahmut Bakali, the president of the League of Communists of Kosovo (Albania's neighboring Yugoslav province), said that there had been "enormous political dislocations on a large front" in Albania. Bakali, who is probably in as close touch with events in Albania as any outsider, said that attacks on the intellectuals resulted from Hoxha's fear of pro-Soviet tendencies among some officials in Tirana and that a shake-up was still going on in the government and economic spheres.

25X1C Reports of purges of several leading Albanian officials last summer have now surfaced in the Western press [REDACTED] 25X1C

Tirana's silence on the ousters leaves their rationale open to speculation, but it seems clear that they probably go back to the sacking of Defense Minister Balluku in the summer of 1974. His dismissal took place amid signs of a mounting struggle between those in the party favoring a hard-line policy in domestic and foreign affairs and those endorsing a more moderate position.

Bakali seemed convinced that this summer's dismissals stemmed from a dispute over economic planning and foreign trade. Two of the officials purged were the minister and vice minister of trade, but no word on their replacements has yet come out. Bakali said that Albania's need for capital will compel Tirana to turn more to the West,

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but so far there are no signs that Hoxha is interested in this. In the meantime, Hoxha and his supporters continue to maintain Tirana's hard line in the Communist world and its adamant opposition to any form of cooperation with Moscow. (SECRET NO-FORN)



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